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TITLE: Pneumatic tyre - has tread grooves and lands on the tread, in-land grooves whose one-side ends are open to the tread grooves and which terminate inside the tread lands and do not emerge on the tread surface, are formed

PATENT-ASSIGNEE:

ASSIGNEE

SUMITOMO RUBBER IND LTD

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BASIC-ABSTRACT:

In a pneumatic tyre having tread grooves and lands on the tread, in-land grooves whose one-side ends are open to the tread grooves and which terminate inside the tread lands and do not emerge on the tread surface, are formed; the groove ratio $R_m (=SG/S)$, on worn tread surface, of the sum, SG, of the groove areas of the in-land grooves and tread grooves to the total area, S, of the ground-contact surface is larger than that, R_n , when the tire is new.

ADVANTAGE - This tyre can suppress the reduction of hydroplaning resistance as compared to when the tyre is new.

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.1/5

TITLE-TERMS: PNEUMATIC TYRE TREAD GROOVE LAND TREAD LAND GROOVE ONE SIDE END OPEN TREAD GROOVE TERMINATE TREAD LAND EMERGENCE TREAD SURFACE FORMING

DERWENT-CLASS: A95 Q11

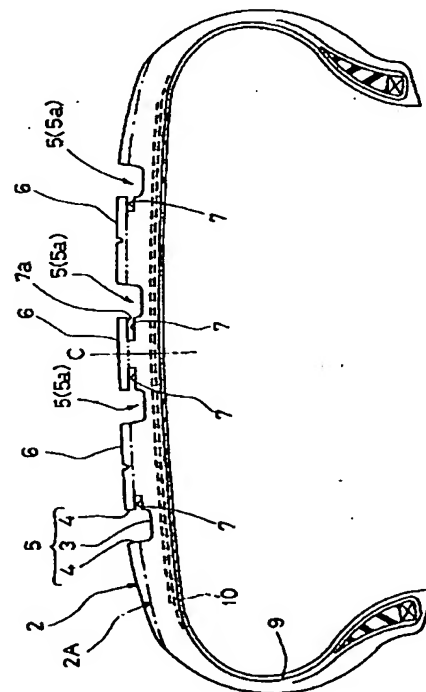
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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】トレッド面に、該トレッド面を凹ませ溝底からタイヤ半径方向外側にのびてこのトレッド面に至る溝壁を有するトレッド溝と、

非トレッド溝部分であるトレッド陸部とを形成した空気入りタイヤであって、

前記トレッド陸部に、一端がトレッド溝の前記溝壁かつ新品タイヤでのトレッド面下方で開口し前記トレッド陸部の内部をのびて終端することにより、新品タイヤのトレッド面には現れない陸部内溝を隔設するとともに、
10 摩耗したトレッド面に現れた陸部内溝と前記トレッド溝との摩耗したトレッド面での接地面における溝面積和 (SG) と、接地面の全面積 (S) との比である溝比 $R_m (=SG/S)$ をタイヤ新品時の溝比 R_n よりも大とすることを特徴とする空気入りタイヤ。

【請求項2】前記トレッド溝は、タイヤ周方向にのびる主溝と、この主溝に交わる向きにのびる副溝を含み、かつ前記陸部内溝は、前記主溝および副溝の両溝壁が交差する隣り合う交差位置の間の溝壁において開口するとともに、前記タイヤ摩耗時の溝比 R_m をタイヤ新品時の溝比 R_n の1.05倍以上かつ1.50倍以下としてなる請求項1記載の空気入りタイヤ。

【請求項3】前記陸部内溝は、他の陸部内溝とは独立した有底孔からなり、かつ一方の溝壁に設けられた陸部内溝が、他方の向き合う溝壁に設けた陸部内溝とは前記開口がトレッド溝の溝長さ方向に位置ずれて設けられことを特徴とする請求項1又は2記載の空気入りタイヤ。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、タイヤの摩耗に伴う耐ハイドロブレーニング性能の低下を抑制しうる空気入りタイヤに関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】乗用車用などの空気入りタイヤは、トレッド面に、該トレッド面を凹ませたトレッド溝を形成することによって、ウェット路面を走行する際にタイヤの外へ水を排出でき、路面との摩擦を確保している。したがって、接地面におけるトレッド溝の溝面積が大きくなると、排水性能が高まり、耐ハイドロブレーニング性能を向上させる。

【0003】しかしながら、トレッド面が摩耗すると、通常、接地面の溝面積が減少するため、タイヤ新品時に比べて耐ハイドロブレーニング性能が低下してしまうという問題がある。特にコーナリング中にハイドロブレーニング現象が発生すると、舵がきかなかくなり、車両がスピン状態になるなど事故につながることが多い。このため、空気入りタイヤについて、摩耗に伴う耐ハイドロブレーニング性能の低下を抑制することが急務となる。

【0004】従来、例えば特開昭58-136502号公報は、図5に示すように、溝の断面において、溝底に

楕円状部cを形成することにより、溝底巾bを溝開口部の巾aよりも大としたタイヤ周方向溝gを提案している。

【0005】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、上述した特開昭58-136502号公報のタイヤ周方向溝gは、トレッド面の摩耗が進行すると、楕円状部cが現れることによって溝巾が増加することが予想されるが、トレッド溝の溝底に形成される楕円状部cはタイヤ周方向に連続して設けられている結果、タイヤ新品時においてトレッド陸部eの剛性を弱体化し、操縦安定性能の低下を免れない。

【0006】また、この特開昭58-136502号公報では、トレッド面での接地面に占める全溝面積が、タイヤ新品時から摩耗の段階において、どのように変化するののかという点については、何ら言及されていない。

【0007】本発明者らは、以上のような問題点について鋭意研究を重ねた結果、先ず第一に、トレッドの陸部に、新品タイヤのトレッド面には現れない陸部内溝を隔設することを基本として、タイヤ新品時のトレッド陸部の剛性低下を防止し、第二に、摩耗したトレッド面に現れた陸部内溝と前記トレッド溝との摩耗したトレッド面での接地面における溝面積和 (SG) と、接地面の全面積 (S) との比である溝比 $R_m (=SG/S)$ をタイヤ新品時の溝比 R_n よりも大とすることによって、トレッド面の摩耗が進行した場合に耐ハイドロブレーニング性能の低下を抑制しうることを見出したのである。

【0008】以上のように、本発明は、タイヤの摩耗に伴う耐ハイドロブレーニング性能の低下を抑制しうる空気入りタイヤの提供を目的としている。

【0009】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明のうち請求項1記載の発明は、トレッド面に、該トレッド面を凹ませ溝底からタイヤ半径方向外側にのびてこのトレッド面に至る溝壁を有するトレッド溝と、非トレッド溝部分であるトレッド陸部とを形成した空気入りタイヤであって、前記トレッド陸部に、一端がトレッド溝の前記溝壁かつ新品タイヤでのトレッド面下方で開口し前記トレッド陸部の内部をのびて終端することにより、新品タイヤのトレッド面には現れない陸部内溝を隔設するとともに、摩耗したトレッド面に現れた陸部内溝と前記トレッド溝との摩耗したトレッド面での接地面における溝面積和 (SG) と、接地面の全面積 (S) との比である溝比 $R_m (=SG/S)$ をタイヤ新品時の溝比 R_n よりも大とすることを特徴とする空気入りタイヤである。

【0010】また、請求項2記載の発明は、前記トレッド溝は、タイヤ周方向にのびる主溝と、この主溝に交わる向きにのびる副溝を含み、かつ前記陸部内溝は、前記主溝および副溝の両溝壁が交差する隣り合う交差位置の間の溝壁において開口するとともに、前記タイヤ摩耗

時の溝比 R_m をタイヤ新品時の溝比 R_n の1.05倍以上かつ1.50倍以下とすることを特徴としている。

【0011】又、請求項3記載の発明は、前記陸部内溝は、他の陸部内溝とは独立した有底孔からなり、かつ一方の溝壁に設けられた陸部内溝が、他方の向き合う溝壁に設けた陸部内溝とは前記開口がトレッド溝の溝長さ方向に位置ずれて設けられことを特徴としている。

【0012】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施の一形態を図面に基づき説明する。図1に示すように、空気入りタイヤは、ラジアル構造カーカス9と、このカーカスを締めつけるベルト層10とを具え、本実施形態ではJISに規定される乗用車用タイヤ(タイヤサイズ225/50)を例示している。また、空気入りタイヤは、トレッド面2に、該トレッド面2を凹ませ溝底3からタイヤ半径方向外側にのびてこのトレッド面2に至る溝壁4、4を有するトレッド溝5と、非トレッド溝部分であるトレッド陸部6とを形成している。

【0013】本実施形態では、前記トレッド溝5は、タイヤ周方向に広巾でのびる主溝5aと、この主溝5aに交わる向きにのびる副溝5bとを含むとともに、タイヤ周方向に細巾でのびる細溝5cとから構成されている。

【0014】前記主溝5aは、排水効果を高めるべく本例では、溝巾GW1が13mmの広巾をなし、トレッド面に4本配設される。

【0015】前記副溝5bは、溝巾GW2が5mmで形成され、本例では一方のトレッド縁Eから他方のトレッド縁Eまで連なつてのびる。なお細溝5cは、溝巾GW3が約2mmで形成される。

【0016】また、前記トレッド溝5は、本実施形態では、各溝深さは全て8mmに統一しており、また溝巾が溝底3までほぼ一定をなすとともに、溝壁4と溝底3とは、例えば曲率半径が0.5mm程度の小円弧を介して接続されている。ただし、溝断面の形状は、これに限定されるものではない。

【0017】なお前記溝巾GW1、GW2は、タイヤサイズに応じて適宜変えることができ、例えばトレッド巾TWの1~15%、好ましくは2~10%程度とすることができ、さらに好ましくはGW1>GW2とするのが望ましい。

【0018】次に、前記トレッド陸部6には、本例では、一端がトレッド溝5の前記溝壁4かつ新品タイヤでのトレッド面下方で開口し前記トレッド陸部6の内部をのびて終端することにより、新品タイヤのトレッド面2には現れない陸部内溝7を隔設することを特徴としている。

【0019】このように、陸部内溝7は、隔設されることによって、タイヤ新品時におけるトレッド陸部の著しい剛性低下を防ぐことが可能となる。

【0020】そして、この陸部内溝7は、摩耗したトレ

ッド面2A(図1に一点鎖線で示す)に現れることによって、陸部内溝7と前記トレッド溝5との摩耗したトレッド面2Aでの接地面における溝面積和(SG)と、接地面の全面積(S)との比である溝比 $R_m(=SG/S)$ をタイヤ新品時について同様に求めた新品時の溝比 R_n よりも大となるように設定される。

【0021】したがって、トレッド面2が摩耗した場合であっても、接地面に占める溝面積の割合が従来のように低下することなくむしろ増大することによって、摩耗の進行に伴う耐ハイドロプレーニング性能の低下を抑制しうる。

【0022】なお、前記タイヤ摩耗時の溝比 R_m は、好ましくは、タイヤ新品時の溝比 R_n の1.05倍以上かつ1.50倍以下、さらに好ましくは1.10倍以上1.30倍以下とすることが、ウェット路面における耐ハイドロプレーニング性能を向上しうる効果を十分かつ確実に発揮しうる点で望ましい。

【0023】又、本実施形態では、前記陸部内溝7は、トレッド溝5のうち、排水性能に最も効果を発揮する主溝5aに開口しかつタイヤ軸方向にのびる如く設けられる。また、その溝断面は略矩形状をなす。

【0024】ここで、陸部内溝7は、いずれのトレッド溝5(5a、5b、5c)にも設けることができるが、一般に、乗用車の空気入りタイヤのトレッド溝5は、溝巾が1.5~30mm、溝深さが1.6~10mm程度の種々のものがあり、本発明の陸部内溝7はトレッド溝5のなかで最も溝が深くかつ溝巾が最も大なタイヤ周方向にのびる主溝5aに設けられている。

【0025】このように、摩耗後期においても最後まで残存する最も溝深さが大きいトレッド溝5aに陸部内溝7を設けることによって、陸部内溝7による溝面積増大効果を長期に亘って持続させることが可能となる点で好ましい。また、排水性に最も効果のある溝巾が最も大なトレッド溝5aに陸部内溝7を設けることによって、該陸部内溝7の成形を容易としつつ摩耗時における耐ハイドロプレーニング性能の低下抑制効果を高めうる点でも好ましい。

【0026】かかる観点より、陸部内溝7が設けられるトレッド溝5は、溝巾が5mm以上、好ましくは8mm以上、溝深さは5mm以上、さらに好ましくは7mm以上が望ましく、上限は例えば30mm以下(トレッド巾の3~15%)としうる。

【0027】また、前述の摩耗時の溝比 R_m を新品時の溝比 R_n よりも大とする効果は、最も耐ハイドロプレーニング性能が低下しがちな摩耗中期から摩耗後期にかけての範囲で保ちうることが望ましく、具体的には、主溝5aがタイヤ新品時の深さの60~80%摩耗した範囲で、好ましくは50~80%摩耗した範囲で、より好ましくは50%摩耗したときから主溝の深さが摩耗限度、即ち1.6mmになるまでの範囲で保ちうることが望まし

い。

【0028】かかる観点より、図2、図3に示す如く、陸部内溝7のタイヤ半径方向外側面7aからタイヤ新品時のトレッド面2までのタイヤ半径方向の距離HUは、主溝5aの深さDLの50%以上とするのが望ましい。

【0029】同様に、陸部内溝7のタイヤ半径方向内側面7bからタイヤ新品時のトレッド面2までのタイヤ半径方向の距離HLは、前記距離HUよりも大かつ主溝5aの深さDLの80%、好ましくは主溝5aの深さDLから摩擦限度の1.6mmを減じた長さとするのが望ましい。

【0030】なお、陸部内溝7の前記距離HUが、主溝5aの深さDLの25%未満とすることもできるが、この場合には、陸部内溝7のタイヤ半径方向外側に位置するトレッド陸部6の剛性が小となる傾向にあり、操縦安定性能の低下や偏摩耗を発生させる場合がある。

【0031】また、陸部内溝7の前記距離HLは、主溝5aの深さDLの100%を超えることもできるが、この場合には、陸部内溝7の下のトレッドゴムゲージが小となり、クラックが生じやすくなるため、前記距離HLは、主溝5aの深さの100%以下、さらに成形性や実用性を考慮すると、主溝5aの深さDL-1.6mmとするのが望ましい。

【0032】また陸部内溝7は、図2、図3に示す如く、この陸部内溝7が配される主溝5aの方向に沿った陸部内溝長さUN、および前記陸部内溝7の開口7aから陸部内溝7の最奥部までの最短距離である陸内溝深さUFは、1.5~30mmとするのが望ましい。

【0033】前記陸部内溝の長さUN又は深さUFが1.5mmに満たないと、トレッド面2の摩擦時に、前記摩擦時の溝比Rmを新品時の溝比Rnよりも大とするためには、多数の陸部内溝7を形成する必要がある、成形用金型が高価となりまた生産工程が複雑化するなど、製造コストが上昇する傾向にある。逆に、前記陸部内溝の長さUN又は深さUFが30mmを超えると、トレッド陸部6の剛性が小となり、ゴム欠け等の損傷が生じやすくなる。

【0034】したがって、前記陸部内溝長さUNおよび深さUFは、好ましくは2.0~20mm、さらに好ましくは5~10mmとするのが望ましい。

【0035】さらに、陸部内溝7は、本実施形態ではタイヤ赤道面と平行な断面を略矩形状としたものを例示しているが、この場合、タイヤ半径方向外側面7aの面積US(図3にハッチングにて示す)は、2.5~900mm²とするのが望ましい。

【0036】前記陸部内溝の面積USが、2.5mm²に満たないと、摩擦時の耐ハイドロブレーニング性能の低下を抑制するためには、多数の陸部内溝7を形成する必要がある、上記同様製造コストが上昇する傾向にある。逆に、前記面積USが900mm²を超えると、トレッド

陸部6の剛性が小となり、ゴム欠け等の損傷が生じやすくなる。

【0037】したがって、陸部内溝のタイヤ半径方向外側面7aの面積USは、好ましくは4.0~400mm²、さらに好ましくは25~100mm²とするのが望ましい。

【0038】さらに、陸部内溝7は、前記主溝5aおよび副溝5bの両溝壁が交差する隣り合う交差位置P、Pの間の溝壁4において開口することが好ましい。陸部内溝7が前記主溝5aおよび副溝5bの両溝壁が交差する交差位置Pで開口すると、2つの溝壁4、4に連続して開口することとなり、トレッド陸部6の剛性を著しく低下させる傾向がある。したがって、内部陸溝7は、前記交差位置P、Pの間の溝壁、つまり2つの溝壁に跨がらず、1つの溝壁内にて開口することにより、トレッド陸部6の剛性を損なうことなく、摩耗の進行に伴う耐ハイドロブレーニング性能の低下を抑制しうる。

【0039】また、前記陸部内溝7は、本実施形態では、他の陸部内溝7と互いに連通しない独立した有底孔からなるもので構成している。このように内部陸溝7を構成することによって、タイヤ新品時のトレッド陸部6の著しい剛性の低下を抑制しうる点で好ましいものとなる。

【0040】さらに、本実施形態では、前記陸部内溝7は、主溝5aの一方の溝壁4にのみ設けられものを例示しているが、陸部内溝7が主溝5aの向き合う溝壁4、4に設けられる場合には、向き合う溝壁4に設けられた陸部内溝7の開口を、主溝5aの溝長さ方向に位置ずれさせて設けるのが望ましい。

【0041】前記陸部内溝7が、主溝5aの向き合う溝壁4に直面して設けられると、トレッド陸部6の剛性が該陸部内溝7の近傍にて低下する傾向にあり、また金型の製造が複雑化し、しかもタイヤを金型から取り出すのが困難となってゴム欠けなどを発生させる虞がある。

【0042】したがって、陸部内溝7は、例えば、副溝5bのタイヤ周方向の配設ピッチと略同様な配設ピッチでタイヤ周方向に分散して隔設するものが好ましい。このとき、陸部内溝7は、副溝5bから主溝5aの深さDLの少なくとも20%以上、好ましくは35%以上の距離KNを主溝5aの長さ方向に隔てて設けるのが、トレッド陸部6の剛性低下を抑制しうる点で好ましい。

【0043】以上のような陸部内溝7は、加硫成形または加硫後にハンドカット機を用いて手彫りすることにより得られる。

【0044】加硫成形する場合には、図4(a)に示す如く、トレッド溝5を成形する溝成形ブレード10の壁面に、油圧又は空気圧Lを用いて突出可能なピストン11を設ける方法や、図4(b)に示す如く、溝成形ブレード10に、上下する押片12とリンク13により接続された機械式に作動するピストン11を設ける方法や、

図4(c)に示すように、溝成形ブレード10の壁面に、固定的な突部14を設ける方法などがある。

【0045】前二者の場合には、金型コストが上昇するが、良好な成形性が得られる点で好ましい。溝成形ブレード10に固定的な突部14を設ける場合には、金型コストは低減しうるが、加硫後、タイヤを金型から取り外し難い。

【0046】したがって、固定的な突部14を用いて陸部内溝7を加硫成形する場合には、金型をタイヤ赤道Cの位置で接離可能な分割面15とし、かつ溝成形ブレード10の前記分割面15に向く壁面に固定突部14を設けることによって、成形後のタイヤの抜け性を高め、成形性を高めうる点で好ましい。なお、ブレードを先細状に形成したときには、さらに抜け性を高めうる。

【0047】以上詳述したが、陸部内溝7は、開口の形状、個数、大きさなどは、前記実施形態以外にも種々変更しうる。

【0048】

【実施例】タイヤサイズが225/50ZR16(トレッド巾:214mm)であり、かつ図1、図2に示す構造を有して内部陸溝を種々変化させた本発明のタイヤ(実施例1~3)について試作するとともに、その性能についてテストを行った。なお、内部陸溝を有しない従来構成のタイヤ(従来例)についても併せてテストを行い性能の比較を行った。タイヤ構造の詳細およびテスト要領は次の通りである。

【0049】タイヤ構造
カーカス

カーカスコード: ポリエステル

コード角度: タイヤ赤道に対して90°

プライ数: 1

【0050】ベルト層

ベルトコード: スチール

コード角度: タイヤ赤道に対して20°

プライ数: 2(コードが交差するようにプライを重ね)

【0051】バンド層

バンドコード: ナイロン

コード角度: タイヤ赤道に対して0°で螺旋巻き
層数: 1

【0052】トレッド溝の溝巾

GW1: 13mm(6%)

GW2: 5mm(2.3%)

GW3: 2mm(0.9%)

()内の値は、トレッド巾に対する割合

トレッド陸部の周方向長さ: 26mm

【0053】テストは、試供タイヤをリム(6.5JJ×16)にリム組みし、前輪2.2kgf/cm²、後輪2.4kgf/cm²の空気圧を充填し2000ccのFR車に装着するとともに、水深5mmのウエットアスファルト路面テストコースを周回させ、テストドライバーのフィーリングによりウエットコーナリング性能を評価した。なお、タイヤは、新品時と、主溝の深さが80%摩耗したときの2段階でテストを行ない、従来例を100とする指数で表示している。数値が大きい程良好である。

【0054】

【表1】

		9	10		
		比較例	実施例 1	実施例 2	実施例 3
主溝の深さ DL (mm)		8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
距離 HU (mm)		—	4.0	4.0	4.0
距離 HL (mm)		—	8.0	8.0	8.0
陸部内溝の長さ UN (mm)		—	10.0	5.0	8.0
陸部内溝の深さ UF (mm)		—	10	5	8
距離 KN (mm)		—	8.0	10.5	9.0
HU/DL		—	0.5	0.5	0.5
HL/PL		—	1.0	1.0	1.0
KN/DL		—	1.0	1.3	1.1
面積 US (mm ²)		—	100	25	64
新品時溝比 Rn (%)		38	38	38	38
摩 耗 時 の 溝 比 Rm ※	10%摩耗	38(1.0)	38(1.0)	38(1.0)	38(1.0)
	20%摩耗	38(1.0)	38(1.0)	38(1.0)	38(1.0)
	30%摩耗	38(1.0)	38(1.0)	38(1.0)	38(1.0)
	40%摩耗	38(1.0)	38(1.0)	38(1.0)	38(1.0)
	50%摩耗	38(1.0)	44(1.15)	40(1.05)	42(1.1)
	60%摩耗	38(1.0)	44(1.15)	40(1.05)	42(1.1)
	70%摩耗	38(1.0)	44(1.15)	40(1.05)	42(1.1)
	80%摩耗	38(1.0)	44(1.15)	40(1.05)	42(1.1)
	90%摩耗	38(1.0)	44(1.15)	40(1.05)	42(1.1)
	100%摩耗	0	0	0	0
テ ス 結 果	新品時	100	100	100	100
	80%摩耗时	100	130	110	120

※ () 内の数値は対新品時溝比

【0055】テストの結果、実施例のものは比較例のものに比べて80%摩耗时においても安定した耐ハイドロブレーニング性能を発揮しうることが確認できた。

【0056】

【発明の効果】叙上の如く本発明の空気入りタイヤは、摩耗の進行により、陸部内溝が摩耗したトレッド面に現れることによって、摩耗したトレッド面での接地面における溝面積和 (SG) と、接地面の全面積 (S) との比 $Rn (=SG/S)$ をタイヤ新品時の溝比 Rm よりも大

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の実施の一形態を示す空気入りタイヤの断面図である。

【図2】そのトレッドパターンを展開して示す平面図で*

*ある。

【図3】陸部内溝の斜視図である。

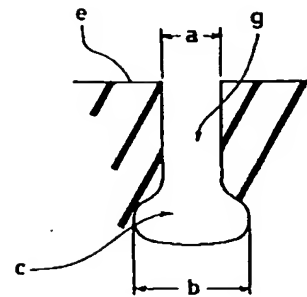
【図4】(a)～(c)は、陸部内溝を成形する金型の一例を示す断面図である。

【図5】従来のタイヤ周方向溝を示す断面図である。

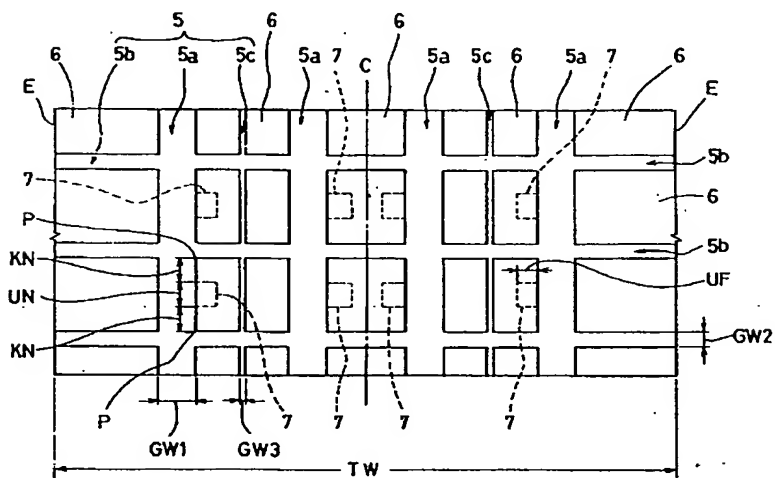
【符号の説明】

- 2 トレッド面
- 3 溝底
- 4 溝壁
- 5 トレッド溝
- 5a 主溝
- 5b 副溝
- 6 トレッド陸部
- 7 陸部内溝

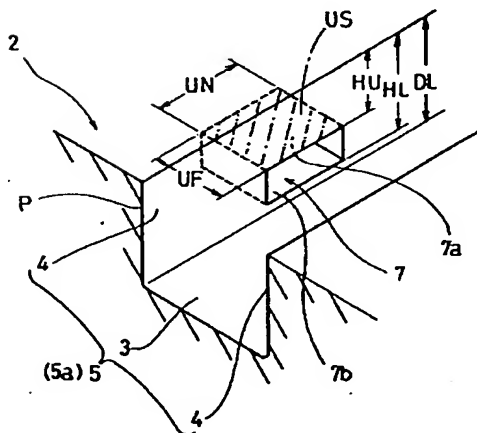
【図5】



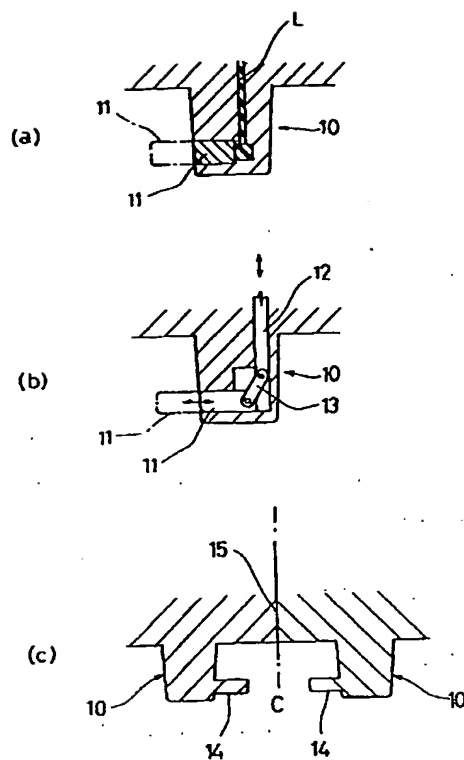
【図2】



【図3】



【図4】



* NOTICES *

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1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the pneumatic tire which can control the hydroplaning-proof performance degradation in accordance with wear of a tire.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] By forming in a tread side the tread groove which dented this tread side, when the pneumatic tires for passenger cars etc. ran a wet road surface, they could discharge water out of the tire, and they have secured friction with a road surface. Therefore, if the groove surface product of the tread groove in a ground plane becomes large, the wastewater engine performance will increase, the hydroplaning-proof engine performance will be raised, and it will get.

[0003] However, when a tread side is worn out, in order that the groove surface product of a ground plane may decrease, there is usually a problem that the hydroplaning-proof engine performance will fall compared with the time of a tire new article. If hydroplaning occurs especially in a cornering, a rudder will come and it will lead to kana or accident -- a car will be in a spin state in ** -- in many cases. For this reason, it becomes pressing need to control the hydroplaning-proof performance degradation in accordance with wear about a pneumatic tire.

[0004] The former, for example, JP,58-136502,A, has proposed the tire hoop direction slot g which made groove bottom width b size from the width a of slot opening by forming the ellipse-like section c in a groove bottom in the cross section of a slot, as shown in drawing 5.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, although it will be expected that a flute width increases when the ellipse-like section c appears if wear of a tread side advances, as a result of being prepared in the tire hoop direction in succession, the ellipse-like section c formed in the groove bottom of a tread groove weakens the rigidity of the tread land part e at the time of a tire new article, and, as for the tire hoop direction slot g on JP,58-136502,A mentioned above, does not escape lowering of driving stability ability.

[0006] Moreover, in this JP,58-136502,A, reference is not made at all about the point how all the groove surface products occupied to the ground plane in a tread side change from the time of a tire new article in the phase of wear.

[0007] this invention persons are first based on ****(ing) the slot in a land part which does not appear in the tread side of a new article tire in the first place in the land part of a tread, as a result of repeating research wholeheartedly about the above troubles. The groove surface sum of products in the ground plane in the worn-out tread side of the slot in a land part which appeared in the tread side which prevented the reduction of rigidity of the tread land part at the time of a tire new article, and was worn out in the second, and said tread groove (SG), By making into size the slot ratio $R_m (= SG/S)$ which is a ratio with the whole surface product (S) of a ground plane from the slot ratio R_n at the time of a tire new article, when wear of a tread side advanced, it found out that hydroplaning-proof performance degradation could be controlled.

[0008] As mentioned above, this invention aims at offer of the pneumatic tire which can control the hydroplaning-proof performance degradation in accordance with wear of a tire.

[0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The tread groove which has a groove face from a groove bottom to [invention according to claim 1 dents this tread side to a tread side among this inventions, and / a tire radial outside] the tread side of a mileage lever, It is the pneumatic tire in which the tread land part which is a part for a non-tread slot was formed. When an end carries out opening to said tread land part in the tread side lower part in said groove face and new article tire of a tread groove and extends for it and carries out termination of the interior of said tread land part to it, while ****(ing) the slot in a land part not appearing in the tread side of a new article tire It is the pneumatic tire characterized by making into size the slot ratio $R_m (=SG/S)$ which is a ratio of the groove surface sum of products (SG) in the ground plane in the worn-out tread side of the slot in a land part which appeared in the worn-out tread side, and said tread groove, and the whole surface product (S) of a ground plane from the slot ratio R_n at the time of a tire new article.

[0010] Invention according to claim 2 moreover, said tread groove The major groove extended to a tire hoop direction and the minor groove extended to the sense which crosses this major groove are included. And the slot in said land part While carrying out opening in the groove face between the adjacent crossover locations where both the groove faces of said major groove and a minor groove cross, it is characterized by making the slot ratio R_m at the time of said tire wear into 1.05 or more times of the slot ratio R_n at the time of a tire new article, and 1.50 or less times.

[0011] Moreover, with the slot in a land part which the slot in a land part which consisted of an independent closed-end hole, and was established in one groove face established in the groove face which another side faces, said opening carries out a location gap, and is prepared in the direction of a flute length of a tread groove, and the slot in said land part is characterized [slots / other / in a land part] by things by invention according to claim 3.

[0012]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, one gestalt of operation of this invention is explained based on a drawing. As shown in drawing 1, the pneumatic tire was equipped with the radial structure carcass 9 and the belt layer 10 which binds this carcass tight, and has illustrated the tire for passenger cars (tire sizes 225/50) specified to JIS with this operation gestalt. Moreover, a pneumatic tire dents this tread side 2 to the tread side 2, and forms in it the tread groove 5 which has the groove faces 4 and 4 which reach the tread side 2 of a mileage lever on the tire radial outside, and the tread land part 6 which is a part for a non-tread slot from the groove bottom 3.

[0013] With this operation gestalt, said tread groove 5 consists of striation 5c extended with narrow-width to a tire hoop direction while containing major groove 5a wide [to a tire hoop direction] and extended to it, and minor groove 5b extended to the sense which crosses this major groove 5a.

[0014] In this example, four extensive width whose flute widths GW1 are 13mm is arranged in nothing and a tread side so that said major groove 5a may heighten the wastewater effectiveness.

[0015] A flute width GW2 is formed by 5mm, and said minor groove 5b is stood in a row and extended by this example from one tread edge E to the tread edge E of another side. In addition, as for striation 5c, a flute width GW3 is formed by about 2mm.

[0016] Moreover, while said tread groove 5 has unified the whole of each channel depth into 8mm and is mostly fixed to the flute width fang furrow bottom 3 with this operation gestalt, the groove face 4 and the groove bottom 3 are connected through the small-circle arc whose radius of curvature is about 0.5mm. However, the configuration of a slot cross section is not limited to this.

[0017] In addition, said flute widths GW1 and GW2 can be suitably changed according to tire size, for example, it is desirable to be able to consider as about 2 - 10% preferably, and to be referred to [of the tread width TW] as $GW1 > GW2$ still more preferably 1 to 15%.

[0018] Next, by this example, it is characterized by ****(ing) the slot 7 in a land part not appearing in the tread side 2 of a new article tire at said tread land part 6 by an end's carrying out opening in the tread side lower part in said groove face 4 and new article tire of a tread groove 5, and being extended and

carrying out termination of the interior of said tread land part 6.

[0019] Thus, the slot 7 in a land part becomes possible [preventing the reduction of rigidity with the remarkable tread land part at the time of a tire new article] by ****(ing).

[0020] The slot 7 in this land part and by appearing in worn-out tread side 2A (an alternate long and short dash line showing to drawing 1) It is set up so that it may become size from the slot ratio R_n at the time of the new article which asked for the slot ratio $R_m (= SG/S)$ which is a ratio of the groove surface sum of products (SG) in the ground plane in worn-out tread side 2A of the slot 7 in a land part, and said tread groove 5, and the whole surface product (S) of a ground plane similarly about the time of a tire new article.

[0021] Therefore, even if it is the case where the tread side 2 is worn out, the hydroplaning-proof performance degradation in accordance with progress of wear can be controlled by increasing rather, without the rate of the groove surface product occupied to a ground plane falling like before.

[0022] In addition, the slot ratio R_m at the time of said tire wear is desirable preferably at the point that the effectiveness 1.05 or more times and that whose it takes [of the slot ratio R_n at the time of a tire new article] still more preferably for 1.30 or less times 1.10 or more times 1.50 or less times may improve the hydroplaning-proof engine performance in a wet road surface can be demonstrated fully and certainly.

[0023] Moreover, with this operation gestalt, the slot 7 in said land part is formed so that opening may be carried out to major groove 5a which demonstrates effectiveness most for the wastewater engine performance among tread grooves 5 and it may be extended to tire shaft orientations. Moreover, the slot cross section makes the shape of an abbreviation rectangle.

[0024] Although the slot 7 in a land part can be established in any tread groove 5 (5a, 5b, 5c), here Generally, there are various things 1.5-30mm and whose channel depths are about 1.6-10mm, and, as for the tread groove 5 of the pneumatic tire for passenger cars, the flute width is most prepared in major groove 5a extended to the tire hoop direction [size / a slot is deep and / in a hoop direction / a flute width] in the tread groove 5, as for the slot 7 in a land part on this invention.

[0025] Thus, it is desirable at the point that whose it continues and the groove surface product enhancement effect by the slot 7 in a land part is made to maintain at a long period of time it becomes possible by establishing the slot 7 in a land part in tread-groove 5a with the largest channel depth which remains to the last also in a wear anaphase. Moreover, it is desirable also at the point which can heighten the hydroplaning-proof performance degradation depressor effect at the time of wear by establishing the slot 7 in a land part in size flute width [which has effectiveness in wastewater nature most] tread-groove 5a, making easy shaping of this slot 7 in a land part.

[0026] From this viewpoint, 5mm or more, preferably, 8mm or more and a channel depth have 7 still more preferably desirably 5mm or more, and a flute width can set an upper limit to 30mm or less (3 - 15% of tread width) for the tread groove 5 in which the slot 7 in a land part is established.

[0027] Moreover, the effectiveness which makes size the slot ratio R_m at the time of the above-mentioned wear from the slot ratio R_n at the time of a new article It is desirable that it can maintain in the range which lasts to a wear anaphase from the middle of wear in which the hydroplaning-proof engine performance tends to fall most. Specifically It is the range where major groove 5a was preferably worn out 50 to 80% in the range in which the depth at the time of a tire new article was worn out 60 to 80%, and when it wears out 50% more preferably, it is desirable that it can maintain in the range until the depth of a major groove becomes a wear limit, i.e., 1.6mm, from from.

[0028] As shown in drawing 2 and drawing 3 , as for the distance HU tire radial [from tire radial lateral-surface 7a of the slot 7 in a land part to the tread side 2 at the time of a tire new article], it is more desirable than this viewpoint to carry out to 50% or more of depth DL of major groove 5a.

[0029] Similarly, as for the distance HL tire radial [from tire radial medial-surface 7b of the slot 7 in a land part to the tread side 2 at the time of a tire new article], it is more desirable than said distance HU to consider as the die length of size and depth DL of major groove 5a which subtracted 1.6mm of a wear limit from depth DL of major groove 5a preferably 80%.

[0030] In addition, although said distance HU of the slot 7 in a land part can also carry out to less than

25% of depth DL of major groove 5a, it is in the inclination for the rigidity of the tread land part 6 located in the tire radial outside of the slot 7 in a land part to serve as smallness in this case, and lowering and partial wear of driving stability ability may be generated.

[0031] Moreover, although said distance HL of the slot 7 in a land part can also exceed 100% of depth DL of major groove 5a. In this case, since the tread rubber gage under the slot 7 in a land part serves as smallness and it becomes easy to produce a crack, it is desirable to set [of the depth of major groove 5a] said distance HL to depth DL-1.6mm of major groove 5a 100% or less, if a moldability and practicability are further taken into consideration.

[0032] Moreover, as shown in drawing 2 and drawing 3, as for the channel depth UF in land which is the minimum distance from opening 7a of flute-length UN in a land part which met in the direction of major groove 5a in which the slot 7 in this land part is allotted, and the slot 7 in said land part to the maximum inner of the slot 7 in a land part, it is desirable [the slot 7 in a land part] to be referred to as 1.5-30mm.

[0033] If die-length UN or the depth UF of the slot in said land part does not fulfill 1.5mm, it is that it is necessary to form many slots 7 in a land part, a molding die becomes expensive, and a production process is complicated again at the time of wear of the tread side 2 in order to make the slot ratio Rm at the time of said wear into size from the slot ratio Rn at the time of a new article etc. in the inclination for a manufacturing cost to rise. On the contrary, if die-length UN or the depth UF of the slot in said land part exceeds 30mm, the rigidity of the tread land part 6 will serve as smallness, and it will become easy to produce the breakage on a rubber chip etc.

[0034] Therefore, as for said flute-length UN in a land part and depth UF, it is preferably desirable to be referred to as 5-10mm still more preferably 2.0-20mm.

[0035] Furthermore, for the slot 7 in a land part, although what made the cross section parallel to a tire equatorial plane the shape of an abbreviation rectangle is illustrated with this operation gestalt, the area US of tire radial lateral-surface 7a (hatching shows to drawing 3) is 2 2.5-900mm in this case. Carrying out is desirable.

[0036] The area US of the slot in said land part is 2 2.5mm. If it does not fill, in order to control the hydroplaning-proof performance degradation at the time of wear, it is necessary to form many slots 7 in a land part, and is in the inclination for a manufacturing cost to rise like the above. On the contrary, said area US is 2 900mm. If it exceeds, the rigidity of the tread land part 6 will serve as smallness, and it will become easy to produce the breakage on a rubber chip etc.

[0037] therefore, the area US of tire radial lateral-surface 7a of the slot in a land part -- desirable -- 4.0-400mm² -- further -- desirable -- 25-100mm² ** -- carrying out is desirable.

[0038] Furthermore, as for the slot 7 in a land part, it is desirable to carry out opening in the groove face 4 between the adjacent crossover locations P and P where both the groove faces of said major groove 5a and minor groove 5b cross. When the slot 7 in a land part carries out opening in the crossover location P where both the groove faces of said major groove 5a and minor groove 5b cross, opening will be carried out succeeding two groove faces 4 and 4, and there is an inclination to reduce the rigidity of the tread land part 6 remarkably. Therefore, internal **** 7 can control the hydroplaning-proof performance degradation in accordance with progress of wear, without spoiling the rigidity of the tread land part 6 by not straddling the groove face between said crossover locations P and P, i.e., two groove faces, but carrying out opening within one groove face.

[0039] Moreover, the slot 7 in said land part consists of other slots 7 in a land part, and an independent closed-end hole which is not mutually open for free passage, and consists of these operation gestalten. Thus, by constituting internal **** 7, it will become desirable at the point which can control remarkable rigid lowering of the tread land part 6 at the time of a tire new article.

[0040] Furthermore, although the slot 7 in said land part was established only in one groove face 4 of major groove 5a and the thing is illustrated with this operation gestalt, when the slot 7 in a land part is established in the groove faces 4 and 4 which major groove 5a faces, it is desirable to make the location gap of the opening of the slot 7 in a land part established in the groove face 4 which faces each other carry out in the direction of a flute length of major groove 5a, and to prepare it in it.

[0041] When the slot 7 in said land part meets and is established in the groove face 4 which major groove 5a faces, it is in the inclination for the rigidity of the tread land part 6 to fall near this slot 7 in a land part, and manufacture of metal mold is complicated and there is a possibility that it may become difficult to take out a tire from metal mold moreover, and it may generate a rubber chip etc.

[0042] Therefore, as for the slot 7 in a land part, what distributes and **** to a tire hoop direction in the arrangement pitch of the tire hoop direction of for example, minor groove 5b and the same arrangement pitch as abbreviation is desirable. As for the slot 7 in a land part, at this time, it is desirable to separate and establish [of depth DL of minor groove 5b to major groove 5a] 35% or more of distance KN in the die-length direction of major groove 5a preferably at least 20% or more at the point which can control the reduction of rigidity of the tread land part 6.

[0043] The above slots 7 in a land part are obtained by using and carrying out hand engraving of the hand cut machine after vulcanization shaping or vulcanization.

[0044] In carrying out vulcanization shaping, as shown in drawing 4 (a), on the wall surface of the slot shaping blade 10 which fabricates a tread groove 5 The approach of forming the piston 11 which can project using oil pressure or pneumatic pressure L, As shown in drawing 4 (b), there are an approach of forming the piston 11 which operates to the mechanical cable type connected to the slot shaping blade 10 by the piece 12 of ** to go up and down and the link 13, a method of forming the fixed projected part 14 in the wall surface of the slot shaping blade 10, as shown in drawing 4 (c), etc.

[0045] In the case of before 2 person, metal mold cost goes up, but it is desirable at the point that a good moldability is obtained. Although metal mold cost can be reduced when forming the fixed projected part 14 in the slot shaping blade 10, it is hard to remove a tire from metal mold after vulcanization.

[0046] Therefore, when carrying out vulcanization shaping of the slot 7 in a land part using the fixed projected part 14, it is desirable at the point which raises the omission nature of the tire after shaping and can raise a moldability by forming the fixed projected part 14 in the wall surface which considers as the split mold which can make metal mold the parting plane 15 which can attach and detach in the location of the tire equator C, and turns to said parting plane 15 of the slot shaping blade 10. In addition, when a blade is formed in the shape of a taper, it escapes further and a sex can be raised.

[0047] Although explained in full detail above, the slot 7 in a land part can change the configuration of opening, the number, magnitude, etc. variously besides said operation gestalt.

[0048]

[Example] Tire size was ZR16 (tread width: 214mm) 225/50, and while building a prototype about the tire (examples 1-3) of this invention to which it has the structure shown in drawing 1 and drawing 2, and various internal **** were changed, it tested about the engine performance. In addition, it tested by having combined also about the tire (conventional example) of a configuration conventionally which does not have internal ****, and the engine performance was compared. The detail and the test point of tire structure are as follows.

[0049] tire structure carcass carcass code: -- polyester code include-angle: -- the tire equator -- receiving -- number of 90-degree plies: -- 1 [0050] belt layer belt: -- steel code include-angle: -- the tire equator -- receiving -- the number of 20-degree plies -- :2 (ply is superposed so that a code may cross)

[0051] band layer band code: -- nylon code include-angle: -- the tire equator -- receiving -- 0 degree -- spiral volume number-of-layers: -- 1 [0052] Flute width GW1:13mm of a tread groove (6%)

GW2:5mm(2.3%)

GW3:2mm(0.9%)

() An inner value is hoop direction die-length:26mm[0053] of a rate tread land part to tread width. A test carries out rim **** of the sample offer tire at a rim (6.5JJx16), and is front-wheel 2.2 kgf/cm2 and rear wheel 2.4 kgf/cm2. While being filled up with pneumatic pressure and equipping 2000 cc FR vehicle, the wet asphalt road surface test course with a depth of 5mm was made to go around, and the wet cornering engine performance was evaluated with the feeling of a test driver. In addition, a tire tests in two steps, at the time of a new article, and the having worn the depth of a major groove out 80% time, and is expressed as the characteristic which sets the conventional example to 100. It is so good that a numeric value is large.

[0054]

[A table 1]

	比較例	実施例 1	実施例 2	実施例 3
主溝の深さ DL (mm)	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
距離 HU (mm)	—	4.0	4.0	4.0
距離 HL (mm)	—	8.0	8.0	8.0
陸部内溝の長さ UN (mm)	—	10.0	5.0	8.0
陸部内溝の深さ UF (mm)	—	10	5	8
距離 KN (mm)	—	8.0	10.5	9.0
HU/DL	—	0.5	0.5	0.5
HL/PL	—	1.0	1.0	1.0
KN/DL	—	1.0	1.3	1.1
面積 US (mm ²)	—	100	25	64
新品時溝比 Rn (%)	38	38	38	38
※ 摩耗時の溝比 Rm	10%摩耗	38(1.0)	38(1.0)	38(1.0)
	20%摩耗	38(1.0)	38(1.0)	38(1.0)
	30%摩耗	38(1.0)	38(1.0)	38(1.0)
	40%摩耗	38(1.0)	38(1.0)	38(1.0)
	50%摩耗	38(1.0)	44(1.16)	42(1.1)
	60%摩耗	38(1.0)	44(1.16)	42(1.1)
	70%摩耗	38(1.0)	44(1.16)	42(1.1)
	80%摩耗	38(1.0)	44(1.16)	42(1.1)
	90%摩耗	38(1.0)	44(1.16)	42(1.1)
	100%摩耗	0	0	0
テスト結果	新品時	100	100	100
	80%摩耗時	100	130	120

※ () 内の数値は対新品時溝比

[0055] It has checked that the thing of an example could demonstrate the hydroplaning-proof engine performance stabilized compared with the thing of the example of a comparison at the time of 80% wear as a result of the test.

[0056]

[Effect of the Invention] The pneumatic tire of this invention according to progress of wear like the above statement by appearing in the tread side where the slot in a land part was worn out the ratio of the groove surface sum of products (SG) in the ground plane in the worn-out tread side, and the whole surface product (S) of a ground plane -- since $R_n (=SG/S)$ can be made into size rather than the slot ratio R_m at the time of a tire new article, hydroplaning-proof performance degradation can be controlled compared with the time of a tire new article.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

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1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The tread groove which has a groove face from a groove bottom to [a side / dents this tread side to a tread side, and / in a tire radial outside] the tread side of a mileage lever, It is the pneumatic tire in which the tread land part which is a part for a non-tread slot was formed. When an end carries out opening to said tread land part in the tread side lower part in said groove face and new article tire of a tread groove and extends for it and carries out termination of the interior of said tread land part to it, while ****(ing) the slot in a land part not appearing in the tread side of a new article tire The pneumatic tire characterized by making into size the slot ratio $R_m (=SG/S)$ which is a ratio of the groove surface sum of products (SG) in the ground plane in the worn-out tread side of the slot in a land part which appeared in the worn-out tread side, and said tread groove, and the whole surface product (S) of a ground plane from the slot ratio R_n at the time of a tire new article.

[Claim 2] It is the pneumatic tire according to claim 1 which becomes considering the slot ratio R_m at the time of said tire wear as 1.05 or more times of the slot ratio R_n at the time of a tire new article, and 1.50 or less times while carrying out opening in the groove face between the adjacent crossover locations where, as for the slot in said land part, both the groove faces of said major groove and a minor groove cross, including the major groove to which said tread groove is extended to a tire hoop direction, and the minor groove extended to the sense which crosses this major groove.

[Claim 3] For the slot in a land part which the slot in a land part which consisted of a closed-end hole which became independent of other slots in a land part, and was established in one groove face established in the groove face which another side faces, the slot in said land part is a pneumatic tire according to claim 1 or 2 which said opening carries out a location gap, is prepared in the direction of a flute length of a tread groove, and is characterized by things.

[Translation done.]